

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 13, 2008

The Emergency Management Advisory Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Advisory Council members present were: Chairman Nathan Miller, Dave Reagan, Mike Kyger, Commissioner Ruth Shedd, Carol Shelby, Garry Smith, and Jimmy Kesterson. Also present were Director Mark Kirby and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

Commissioner Shedd moved to approve minutes from the April 8, 2008 meeting, second by Carol Shelby; motion carried.

Director's Report

The District Oversight Planning Committee met recently. The group comprised of government officials oversees the functions of the district. The committee will hold meetings for public officials to share information from the Department of Homeland Security regarding grants and programs for the county.

Director Kirby reported a group of Purdue students have drafted a district mutual aid agreement. He explained TEMA is expected to have a mutual aid agreement with every emergency management agency in the district. Each county is expected to have an agreement with first responders; this will connect TEMA with entities outside the county to cover liabilities and expenses.

Zoning quadrants for the siren project will be established soon to effectively notify the community. These quadrants will assist TEMA in individually alerting small areas throughout the county. Mapping is complete; the contractor will visit each siren for zoning to establish the quadrants.

The Emergency Medical Services Committee is currently discussing the assets, policies and practices of TEAS. A subcommittee has been established in an effort to develop conclusions to meet the needs of the growing community.

TEMA volunteers participated recently in the March of Dimes walk and the American Cancer Society run at Purdue. Volunteers will also participate in a drill with the Lafayette Post Office. They are one of ten distribution centers in state that have equipment to detect contamination in mail. The Lafayette and Purdue Fire Departments will participate with TEMA on the full scale drill.

Director Kirby reported TEMA was called to West Lafayette to assist with traffic control. West Lafayette had power lines down and requested assistance from TEMA. Director Kirby stated there have been problems in the past with agencies calling TEMA for assistance when in fact they haven't called additional members of their own team. He described how TEMA funds are exhausted for this type of call when an agency has the capacity to call on their team to assist.

The District Task Force is active in planning for future disasters. The team is currently planning for basic necessities for any type of call such as beds, food, and any other basic needs for the team to be self-sustainable for 3 days.

Director Kirby attended the commissioners meeting to discuss purchase of the Duncan Road property and the immediate needs of other departments. He proposed using a portion of the vacant land to provide indoor storage for TEMA equipment. Most of the equipment is stored outside it is slowly deteriorating.

Communications Committee

Dave Reagan reported there has not been any progress with the HAMS radio system. Terry Grossman is working with operators and the HAMS agency to implement the service locally.

Chairman Miller reported past discussions with Sheriff Brown confirmed the reverse 911 system will be further delayed. Chairman Miller added the system used by Eli Lilly is available for use by TEMA in the interim for small notifications. Director Kirby explained several entities are working towards the same goal of emergency notification but working independently. He suggested with the current technology a mass system should be used in an attempt to cover the entire population of the county.

Portable radio system will receive some upgrades in the future. Past problems with microwaves will force the system to go to fiber-optic communications.

HAZMAT

TEMA has been storing evidence from the courthouse incident. ATF is ready to dispose of the substance; the HAZMAT team and the bomb squad will work together to complete the project.

Old Business

None

New Business

Chairman Miller recommended contacting other EMA groups in the state that have been hit by a tornado to obtain information on how to respond. Director Kirby suggested concentrating on the first few days after the disaster. He added FEMA will be on the scene within 72 hours.

Jimmy Kesterson moved to adjourn.